Steps had to be taken to prevent the importation of foreign sugar. American cotton-growers receive more for a crop of 9 million bales than for one of 13 millions, and a Committee appointed by the English Ministry of Agriculture went so far as to say that an unusually abundant crop might bring a heavy fall in prices, and, in the long run, cause the gross value of a large crop to be less than that of a small crop.[1] But here we find ourselves in the grip of the major paradox of capitalist economics!

As to primitive methods, one may point out that the Indian farmer is not nearly such a fool as his middle-class critics make him out to be. R.A.CL in a number of places gives credit to the Indian cultivator, e.g. "In the conditions in which the ordinary cultivator works, agricultural experts have found it no easy matter to suggest improvements." There are many references to the excellence of cultivation, e.g. evidence of "good cultivation" in Orissa, the Gujerati peasant "as efficient as any in the world," "the hard-working and patient cultivator of the Deccan," who is described as "excellent." Praise is even given to the simple Indian plough, but for specific reasons. We may conclude that, though old, methods of agriculture in India are by no means ineffective or so unscientific. In any case, lack of improvements is not a cause but an effect of the peasants' poverty.

It has been said by experts that the cost of consolidating holdings would be costly and unpracticable under existing conditions. Small plots are undoubtedly a hindrance, but consolidation would do little to give relief to the peasant. The pressure on land is so great that there is no certainty that further division would not take place. It is also a fact

[1] "The weather in America may physically be ideal through all wheat-raising sections and yet the year's work may be for the farmer a total failure. Another type of weather ruins hfm —a social weather in the control of which private ownership or capitalism as we know it$_a$ has broken down.'*—Bishop VfcConnell, *Christian Materialism.*